

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 8 and 19 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process for delivering a nucleic acid to a cell *in vivo*, comprising:
 - a) forming a complex consisting of a nucleic acid and a polycation in a solution wherein the complex has a net charge less negative than the nucleic acid;
 - b) ionically associating a charged polymer [[to]] with the complex of step a) in sufficient amount to form a new complex having a net ~~charge more~~ negative charge than the complex in step a);
 - c) inserting the complex into a mammal;
 - d) delivering the complex to the cell.
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the polycation is selected from the group consisting of PLL and PEI polylysine and polyethylenimine.
4. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the charged polymer comprises a polyanion.
5. (previously amended) The process of claim 4 wherein the polyanion comprises a molecule selected from the group consisting of succinylated PLL, succinylated PEI, polyglutamic acid, polyaspartic acid, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, dextran sulfate, heparin, hyaluronic acid, DNA, RNA, and negatively charged proteins.
6. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the charged polymer comprises a block copolymer.
7. (original) The process of claim 4 wherein the polyanion comprises a molecule selected from the group consisting of pegylated derivatives, pegylated derivatives carrying specific ligands, block copolymers, graft copolymers and hydrophilic polymers.

8. (currently amended) A tertiary complex for delivering a nucleic acid to a cell *in vivo*, comprising:
 - a) the nucleic acid;
 - b) a polycation polymer complexed with the nucleic acid; and,
 - c) a polyanion polymer, having ~~a molecular weight of at least 30 kDa~~ more than 80 monomer units, complexed with the polycation via ionic interaction, wherein the polyanion polymer is not the nucleic acid of a).
9. (canceled)
10. (previously amended) The complex of claim 8 wherein the polycation is selected from group consisting of PLL and PEI.
11. (canceled)
12. (previously amended) The complex of claim 8 wherein the polyanion polymer is selected from the group consisting of succinylated PLL, succinylated PEI, polyglutamic acid, polyaspartic acid, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, dextran sulfate, heparin, hyaluronic acid, DNA, RNA, and negatively charged proteins
13. (previously amended) The complex of claim 8 wherein each polymer comprises a block co-polymer.
14. (previously amended) The complex of claim 8 wherein the polyanion comprises a molecule selected from the group consisting of pegylated derivatives, pegylated derivatives carrying specific ligands, block copolymers, graft copolymers and hydrophilic polymers.
- 15-18. (canceled)
19. (currently amended) A process for delivering a nucleic acid to a cell, comprising:
 - a) forming a net negatively charged tertiary complex, consisting of a first polymer, a second polymer and a third polymer in a solution wherein the first polymer and the third polymer each have a net negative charge, the first polymer but not the third polymer consists of the nucleic acid, and the polymers are associated through ionic interactions;
 - b) inserting the complex into a mammal;
 - c) delivering the complex to the cell.